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SOURCE Meditsinskiy Rabotnik.THERAPY OF INFLUENZA IN THE USSR

M. Sokolov, Cand Med Sci

Methods of specific therapy of influenza that can be used on a wide scale do not exist as yet. Although A. A. Smorodintsev's method of treating influenza by the inhalation of anti-influenza serum has yielded positive results, this treatment cannot yet be used extensively. Treatment of influenza and of acute catarrhs is carried out by applying nonspecific agents: chemotherapeutic substances, antibiotics, and other drugs. Chemotherapeutic agents (streptocide, sulfidine, sulfathiazole) are used for the treatment of postinfluenza complications (pneumonias), as well as of acute catarrhs of the respiratory tract, since the most frequent causative factors of these conditions are bacteria (pneumococci, Afanas'yev-Pfeiffer bacilli, etc.) which are sensitive to these drugs.

Penicillin nose drops containing 10,000-20,000 units per cc are used, and these are applied at least 3 times a day. Subcutaneous administration of penicillin or the inhalation of this antibiotic are more effective. For the treatment of influenza, application of the antibiotic ekmolin or of ekmolin together with penicillin is recommended. Good results were obtained by using atebtrin. At the Institute of Virusology imeni D. I. Ivanovskiy, Academy of Medical Sciences USSR, synthomycin and other USSR antibiotics are being investigated from the standpoint of using them to prevent complications in influenza.

In addition to treatment with the drugs mentioned above, symptomatic methods of treatment are used if appropriate indications are present. Good results have been obtained by using urotropin together with pyramidon and caffeine.

Active immunization is an effective method of preventing influenza. Investigations have shown that intranasal immunization with live anti-influenza vaccine lowers the incidence of infection by a factor of 2-3 or higher. However, prophylaxis by immunization is only an auxiliary method at present; the main reliance is still placed on antiepidemic and sanitary-hygienic measures.

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